20th December 1954]

Opening of a Medical College at Tanjore.

* 443 *Q.*—SRI S. RAMALINGAM: Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether any representation was received by the Government for the grant of permission to open a medical college at Tanjore; and

(*b*) if so, the action taken thereon?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" (*a*) Yes, Sir.

" (*b*) The matter is under the consideration of Government."

Amalgamation of private bus services into big viable units.

* 444 *Q.*—SRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Religious Endowments and Transport be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that the Planning Commission has suggested to the State Government that in the matter of issuing bus permits, consideration must be given for constituting viable economic units;

(*b*) if so, what action the Government have taken on the suggestion;

(*c*) whether it was placed before the State Transport Advisory Committee; and

(*d*) if so, what their recommendation is?

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—" (*a*) The Planning Commission recommended in respect of Road Transport Services that it is desirable for the existing private operators' units to amalgamate wherever possible, into big viable units to enable them to achieve better returns and maintain better standards of operation.

" (*b*), (*c*) & (*d*) The Government examined the recommendation of the Planning Commission in consultation with the State Transport Advisory Committee. The State Transport Advisory Committee recommended that each unit of passenger transport should consist of not less than 10 buses; that the existing operators of smaller units should be encouraged to amalgamate voluntarily and that operators with buses nearer the mark of ten should be preferred in the matter of grant of new permits. The Government have accepted the recommendation of the State Transport Advisory Committee and have issued orders accordingly."

SRI S. C. C. ANTHONY PILLAI :—" In cases where small fleet-owners refuse to amalgamate, do the Government contemplate bringing forward legislation to compel them to do so? "

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—" Not at this stage, Sir. We will have to give a fair trial to the recommendations of the Advisory Committee."